

of more than 14 percent. In three counties in the heart of Appalachia, the uninsured rate plummeted from more than 20 percent to less than 5 percent, as shown in blue.

Mr. Speaker, overall, in just 6 months, the Affordable Care Act reduced the total number of uninsured Kentuckians by nearly a half. Behind every number, behind every red county turned blue or green are the stories of a person or family getting the health care they need. That is success by any standard, but most importantly, Kentucky standards.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, some of our military have been sent emails telling them not to eat or drink in front of their Muslim brothers who are with them during Ramadan. I have never heard the military come out and say don't eat leavened food in front of your Jewish colleagues during Yom Kippur or Passover. I have never heard the military put out something such as be careful what you are eating in front of your Christian brothers during Lent because they may have chosen to do without.

Last Christmas, soldiers at Camp Shelby in Mississippi were told during a diversity briefing that they could not use the word "Christmas." A VA hospital in Texas refused to accept holiday cards from boys and girls because the cards mentioned "Christmas" or "God bless you," and a nativity scene near a lake on Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina was removed after someone complained.

So you might understand why Ron Crews, executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, is a bit surprised by the Pentagon's recent behavior.

There is a good Biblical word for this: hypocrisy.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I sit on the Natural Resources Committee here in the House, and through our investigations into our treasured national parks, my colleagues and I have discovered a number of tragic choices and changes that are in store for all of us and our children.

Mr. Speaker, because of a changing climate, Glacier National Park's glaciers will melt and be no more.

Mr. Speaker, because of a changing climate, Joshua Tree National Park's Joshua trees will disappear from the park named after them.

Mr. Speaker, because of a changing climate, Rocky Mountain National Park's forests are dying because mild

winters cannot kill pine beetles, which are devastating the park's trees.

Climate change is upon us now. We are paying for its effects today, regardless of the number of votes this body takes to deny what is happening before our eyes.

COMPETING FOR JOBS

(Mr. RICE of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, counties and States around this country compete every day for jobs. How they do it is not complicated. They adjust their tax and their regulatory burdens to attract businesses, and those that do the best job attract the most jobs. The problem is that they are competing for a declining pool of jobs in America because Washington is not competitive. We need to adopt that competitive attitude right here.

In times of war, we forget partisanship and pull together. In truth, we are in an economic war. Countries around the world have teams of people that work every day to beat us economically. The House has passed 39 jobs bills in this Congress which are gathering dust in the Senate. Surely HARRY REID and the President can find one among these 39 bills they can work with to make our country more competitive and put our people back to work.

COMMEMORATING 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you President Johnson, and happy birthday to Medicaid and Medicare. I am excited about the lives that have been saved, and I am looking forward to the full expansion in all 50 States of Medicaid in 2015, its 50th birthday.

I will tell you, when President Johnson signed Medicare into law, less than 50 percent of our seniors had health insurance and 35 percent lived in poverty. Now, over 52.4 million Americans are given health care benefits through Medicare, Medicaid, regardless of their condition, and then for some also when their income is very low.

Mr. Speaker, 43.6 million Americans age 65 and above have Medicare and Medicaid, including 8.8 million disabled. Our seniors are able to be in long-term living because of Medicaid. By the time the baby boomers reach 65, it is expected that 80 million people will be covered by Medicare.

What is the common sense and lack thereof of the States that have not accepted expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act? Mr. Speaker, Medicare and Medicaid together save

lives. I am interested in saving lives. Let's stand up for the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid to save the lives of Americans.

ISSUES CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise deeply disappointed in Congress this week. There are real issues that Congress needs to address for the American people. But instead of addressing the long-term issues of comprehensive immigration reform, comprehensive tax reform, our debt and deficit, getting our economy going, we are considering suing the President of the United States and beating the drum of impeachment.

Where were my Republican colleagues when President Bush was issuing his egregious executive orders? The hypocrisy here is appalling.

We need to provide long-term funding for the highway trust fund, the Export-Import Bank to keep the American businesses competitive, Federal education programs to prepare our people and children for the next generation and workforce. We need to pass a long-term solution for our doctors. We need to provide funding to address the wildfires that are ravaging the Western United States, including my home State of Oregon. We need to get the unregulated amount of money out of politics.

We need to get back to work.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 676, AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE LITIGATION FOR ACTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 935, REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 1, 2014, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 694 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 694

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 676) providing for authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Rules now printed in the resolution shall be considered as adopted. The resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution, as amended, to adoption without intervening